

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were examined by the Office, and in the Office Action of March 20, 2008 all claims are rejected. With this response claims 1, 17-19 and 21 are amended. All amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Support for the amendments can be found at least from page 13, paragraph [0047] of the specification and Figure 7.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following discussion.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

In section 5, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 10-13 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chua (U.S. Appl. Publ. No. 2004/0183833) in view of Ausems et al. (U.S. Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0013483). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the limitations recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to recite that the recognition component is configured to analyze a second portion of the analog user input and eliminate at least one virtual key from the first subset of virtual keys to produce a second subset of virtual keys to concurrently convey to the user during the analog user input. Therefore, claim 1 recites that a first subset of virtual keys are displayed concurrently with receipt of a first portion of the analog user input, and the second subset of virtual keys are displayed concurrently with receipt of the second portion of the analog user input. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 1 as amended.

In contrast to claim 1, Chua discloses displaying the top six scoring members containing the current letter string in the message line with each candidate symbol at the end of it, and every possible word allowed by the insertion of each candidate symbol in the current letter string. See Chua paragraph [0038]. Candidate keys are determined based on the distances to the representative positions of keys relative to the selected position (52). See Chua paragraph [0061]. Therefore, Chua discusses generating a set of words for each candidate key, and generating the top candidates from the set of words to display on the list display area (26). See Chua paragraphs [0103] & [0105]. However, Chua does not display the set of words, but instead only displays the top candidates from the set of words. Therefore, Chua does not disclose or

suggest displaying a first subset of virtual keys concurrently with receiving a first portion of an analog user input, analyzing a second portion of the analog user input and eliminating at least one virtual key from the first subset of virtual keys to produce a second subset of virtual keys that are displayed to the user concurrently with receiving the second portion of the analog user input, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Chua only discloses that the set of words (which are not displayed) is reduced to the top six candidate words on the basis of the scores related to the frequency of use of the words, and not based on another portion of an input. Instead, the input that ultimately produces the list of words that is displayed in the display area (26) only corresponds to a single letter, and therefore entry of a first portion or a second portion of an input does not eliminate candidate keys. In fact, Chua never mentions that candidates are eliminated from the candidate words, but instead only mentions that the number of candidates in the final list will depend upon the limitations of the display area. See Chua paragraph [0038]. Therefore, Chua at least fails to disclose or suggest eliminating at least one virtual key from the first subset of virtual keys to produce a second subset of virtual keys based on analysis of a second portion of an analog user input, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, Ausems fails to make up for the deficiencies in the teachings of Chua identified above, and therefore the cited references even if combined fail to disclose or suggest all of the limitations recited in claim 1. In contrast to claim 1, Ausems is directed to a system application for displaying system status icons for a handheld communication device, and another screen area for displaying current or recent application information for applications, which may be accessed through interaction with the browser. See Ausems paragraph [0014].

Independent claims 17 and 21 contain limitations similar to claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1, claims 17 and 21 are not disclosed or suggested by Chua.

The dependent claims rejected above, all ultimately depend from an independent claim, and therefore are not disclosed or suggested by Chua at least in view of their dependencies.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

In section 6, on page 7 of the Office Action, claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chua and Ausems in view of Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,826,306).

Claim 4 depends from independent claim 1, and Lewis fails to make up for the deficiencies in the teachings of Chua identified above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 4 is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references at least in view of its dependency.

In section 7, on page 8 of the Office Action, claims 5-6, 8-9 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chua and Ausems in view of Lyon (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,621). Claims 5-6, 8-9 and 14-16 all ultimately depend from an independent claim, and Lyon fails to make up for the deficiencies in the teachings of Chua identified above. Therefore, the claims are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references at least in view of their dependencies.

In section 8, on page 10 of the Office Action, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chua in view of Lyon, and in further view of Lewis. Claim 7 ultimately depends from independent claim 1, and Lyon and Lewis fail to make up for the deficiencies in the teachings of Chua identified above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 7 is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references at least in view of its dependency.

Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23-0442.

Respectfully submitted,

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